

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /050 W

-----004192 291531Z /53

P 291300Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL RECIFE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5809

AEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 2605

C O N F I D E N T I A L RECIFE 0164

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, BR

SUBJ: DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS INITIATED AGAINST SWISS CATHOLIC  
PRIEST ROMAIN ZUFFEREY.

SUMMARY: SWISS CATHOLIC PRIEST ROMANO ZUFFEREY IS UNDERGOING  
DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS BECAUSE OF ALLEGED SOCIAL AGITATION WHILE  
WORKING WITH CATHOLIC WORKERS ACTION IN RECIFE. FATHER ZUFFEREY  
PRESENTED HIS DEFENSE AT PROCEEDINGS HELD BY THE FEDERAL POLICE  
IN RECIFE. THE HEARINGS ENDED ON JULY 25. THE FINAL DECISION  
WILL BE MADE IN BRASILIA.

1. ROMAIN ZUFFEREY, A 67 YEAR OLD SWISS CITIZEN AND A ROMAN CATHOLIC  
PRIEST ASSOCIATED WITH ACAO CATOLICA OPERARIA (CATHOLIC WORKER  
ACTION) SINCE ARRIVING IN BRAZIL IN 1962, WAS INFORMED ON JULY 8  
AND NOTIFIED OFFICIALLY ON JULY 11 TO APPEAR BEFORE A FEDERAL  
POLICE HEARING ON JULY 14 CONCERNING ACTIVITIES IN WHICH HE  
HAS BEEN ENGAGED THAT COULD LEAD TO HIS EXPULSION FROM BRAZIL.  
FATHER ZUFFEREY HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF OLINDA AND  
RECIFE AND OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS OF BRAZIL. HIS  
LAWYER IS EDUARDO PANDLFI. THE FEDERAL POLICE HEARINGS IN RECIFE  
BEGAN ON JULY 14 AND CLOSED ON JULY 25.

2. IT IS THE CONSULATE'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE  
IN BRASILIA INITIAITED THE PROCEEDINGS AND WILL DETERMINE WHETHER  
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TO RECOMMEND DEPORTATION TO THE PRESIDENT.

3. THE GOVERNMENT'S CHARGES AGAINST FATHER ZUFFEREY HAVE NOT  
APPEARED IN THE PRESS. STATEMENTS BY THE DEFENSE HAVE CENTERED  
ON SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS BY CATHOLIC WORKER ACTION WITH WHICH FATHER  
ZUFFEREY HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED. THE PUBLICATIONS ARE DESCRIBED BY THE  
DEFENSE AS WORKER ORIENTED BUT NON-MARXIST AND INCLUDE:

1967: "NORTHEAST: DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT JUSTICE" (CALLS FOR DEVELOPMENT WITH AND FOR THE PEOPLE).

1970: "NORTHEAST: THE PROHIBITED MAN" (CONDITIONS OF THE WORKER PREVENT HIM FROM BEING A HUMAN BEING).

1971: "100 YEARS OF SWEAT AND BLOOD" (THE DIFFICULT LIFE OF A METAL WORKER).

1976: "FIRST OF MAY" (INVITATION TO CONTINUE THE WORKER'S STRUGGLE).

4. THE CONSUL MET WITH THE HONORARY SWISS COUNCIL (A BRAZILIAN CITIZEN) ON JULY 24 TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT THE CASE. THE SWISS CONSUL SAID THAT FATHER ZUFFEREY COMMUNICATED WITH HIM AT THE START OF THE HEARINGS BUT THAT THEY HAVE NOT HAD ANY FURTHER CONTACT SINCE THAT TIME. HE SAID THAT HE INFORMED THE SWISS EMBASSY AND HAS TAKEN NO FURTHER ACTION. HE AGREED THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM FATHER ZUFFEREY AND THE PRESS CONCERNING REASONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S DEPORTATION HEARINGS SEEMED INCOMPLETE AND LACKING.

5. THE CONSUL SOUGHT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THE FEDERAL POLICE REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT AND HIS DEPUTY ON JULY 25. ACCORDING TO THE SUPERINTENDENT, THE CHARGES BEING ADDRESSED BY THE DEFENSE

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AND APPEARING IN THE PRESS WERE NOT THE MORE SERIOUS REASONS FOR THE ACTION INITIATED BY THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE MORE SUBSTANTIAL CHARGES AND THAT THEY WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC WHEN AND IF A DEPORTATION ORDER IS ISSUED. THE ACTION, HE SAID, WAS INITIATED IN BRASILIA; THE ROLE OF THE FEDERAL POLICE IN RECIFE WAS ONLY TO TAKE FATHER ZUFFEREY'S STATEMENT. IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING HERE THAT THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE HAS TEN DAYS AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE HEARINGS TO EITHER DROP THE PROCEEDINGS OR RECOMMEND DEPORTATION TO THE PRESIDENT.

6. DOM HELDER CAMARA, ARCHBISHOP OF OLINDA AND RECIFE, ISSUED THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION ON JULY 13:

"PASTORAL TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD. NEW DANGERS WEIGH ON THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN OLINDA AND RECIFE. ONE OF OUR FATHERS, ROMANO ZUFFEREY, RECEIVED FROM THE REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT IN PERNAMBUCO OF THE FEDERAL POLICE, A NOTICE ADDRESSED TO "FOREIGNER ROMAIN ZUFFEREY", WHO BY ORDER DATED APRIL 5, 1977 APPEARING IN THE ACTS OF DFJ/DPE/SE PROCESS NO. 61003/76 THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE ORDERED THE OPENING BY THE SUPERINTENDENCY OF AN INQUIRY FOR HIS EXPULSION FROM BRAZILIAN TERRITORY.

"ALTHOUGH ALLUSION IS MADE TO THE HOLDING OF AN INQUIRY AND ALTHOUGH IT IS SAID THAT HE SHOULD APPEAR AT THE SUPERINTENDANCY ON JULY 14 "TO BE PROCESSED, QUESTIONED, IDENTIFIED AND PHOTO-PHED" AND THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO CHOOSE A LAWYER FOR HIS WRITTAN DEFENSE, IT SEEMS FROM THE TERMS OF THE NOTICE THAT THE EXPULSION ALREADY IS DECIDED, AND THAT THE HEARING IS A MERE FORMALITY.

"I WAS PAINED TO HEAR CALLED A FOREIGNER A PRIEST WHO ALTHOUGH BORN IN SWITZERLAND AND STILL HAS LOVE FOR HIS NATIVE LAND, SINCE 196

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IDENTIFIED HIMSELF WITH OUR PEOPLE, DEDICATING ALL HIS TIME AND SPENDING HIS HEALTH AT THE SERVICE OF THE WORKING CLASS OF OUR COUNTRY.

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"I WAS PAINED NOT TO HEAR CALLED FATHER ONE WHO IS A FATHER FROM HEAD TO TOE...

"I WAS PAINED TO SEE OUR COUNTRY CONTINUING TO INITIATE PROCESSES THAT ARE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE VICTIMS AND AT WHICH THE FINAL HEARINGS REMIND ONE OF THE SELF-CRITICISMS OF THE COMMUNIST PROCESSES.

"I WAS PAINED TO SEE ECCLESIASTICAL ASSISTANCE AT THE SIDE OF THE WORKER BEING CONSIDERED A CRIME.

"I WAS PAINED TO SEE OUR COUNTRY ON THE ROAD TO COMBATTING THE CHURCH, AS IN THE DICTATORSHIPS OF THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT: FIRST THE EXPULSION OF FOREIGN PRIESTS AND THEN THE EFFORT TO CONFINE THE CHURCH TO THE SACRISTAN.

"IN THE CASE, NOT OF THE FOREIGNER ROMAIN ZUFFRE ZUFFEREY, BUT IN OUR DEAREST ROMANO, COMES TO MIND THE WORD OF CHRIST ON BEING BETRAYED AND TAKEN PRISONER IN THE OLIVE GROVE: 'IF IT IS ME THAT YOU WANT, LEAVE MY PEOPLE IN PEACE.'" HOFFENBERG

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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